

ABIN

From KOSYGIN NSRO CONFERENCE

12. Limit on Missile Development

Q. What are the prospects on an agreement with the United States and the Soviet Union on limiting the development of anti-ballistic missile systems? Is there any hope of resolving the problem of safeguards for the proposed treaty banning the threat of nuclear weapons?

A. Well, as regards an anti-missile system, our position is well known. We believe the discussions should center not only merely the problems of an anti-missile defense system, because after all the anti-missile system is not a weapon of aggression, of attack, it is a weapon of protection—it's a defensive system. And we feel, therefore, that what should be considered is the entire complex of armament disarmament questions. And because otherwise if instead of building and deploying an anti-ballistic missile system, the money is used to build up defensive missile systems, mankind will not stand to gain anything; it will on the contrary face a still greater menace and will come still closer to war, and we therefore are in favor of considering this whole range of questions relating to arms and disarmament so as to insure, and we're ready to discuss that question—the general question of disarmament.

As regards the second question, the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, we believe that there has been a significant move forward in that respect. And as I noted in my statement, we are continuing our efforts aimed at finding a solution to this problem.

I want to say that the Soviet Union is interested in achieving a situation where there should be no dissemination of nuclear weapons. And we believe that the United States is seeking the same goals, as are the majority of the nations of the world.

19. Consular Treaty With U.S.

Q. When will the Soviet Union sign the consular treaty with the United States?

A. Well, the treaty has been signed but the ratification procedures have not been completed yet.